

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04211 161234 Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 SY-10 FBIE-00 RSR-01 /147 W
----- 109313

R 160705 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2733

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4211

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CENTO, MARR, IFOR, IR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PAKISTANI FOREIGN
MINISTER FOLLOWING CENTO MINISTERIAL

1. KHAYAN INTERNATIONAL JUNE 13 CARRIED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT AMIR TAHERI WITH PAKISTANI MINISTER OF STATE
FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFIARS AZIZ AHMAD FOLLOWING THE CENTO
MINISTERIAL MEETING MELD IN TEHRAN JUNE 10-11. SALIENT COMMENTS,
ACCORDING TO TAHERI, EXPRESSED BY AZIZ AHMAD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE OBSTINACY WITH WHICH CENTO HAS REFUSED TO SEE THE
LIGHT OF DAY FOR SO MANY YEARS IS NOW HOPEFULLY REPLACED BY A
NORE RELASTIC AND FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TO THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD;

B. FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS CENTO WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ALLIANCE
WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO DEFEND REGIONAL COUNTRIES AGAINST OPEN
NAKED AGGRESSION FROM A COMMUNIST COUNTRY. THIS INTERPRETATION
WAS REINFORCED AS A RESULT OF COLD WAR ACTIVITIES. BUT THERE
IS NOTHING IN TEXT OF CENTO PACT WHICH LIMITS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES
TO A SPECIFIC CASE OF AGGRESSION BY A COMMUNIST POWER;

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04211 161234 Z

C. MOST CENTO DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN PAST 18 YEARS WERE SPRINKLED WITH WORDS " COMMUNISTS" OR " COMUNISM" - GIVING IMPRESSION IT WAS AN ANTI- COMMUNIST DEFENSE BLOC. THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE MINISTEIAL COUNCIL, HOWEVER, PROVED AN EXCEPTION. ONLY ONE OF FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS USED THE WORD " COMMUNIST" IN OPENING STATEMENTS AND THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE MAKES NO MENTION OF COMMUNISM;

D. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMS VITAL IMPORTANCE MINISTERS ATTACH TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE MEMBER STATES IN THE REGION. AT SAME TIME IT SAYS MEMBER STATES WILL COMBAT SUBVERSION " WIH ALL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL" ;

E. A THREAT TO THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS NEED NOT TAKE FORM OF OPEN ATTACK BY A COMMUNIST POWER. NON- COMMUNIST ENEMIES COULD ALSO POSE A THREAT. AZIZ AHMAD, ACCORDING TO TAHERI, LIKES TO THINK THAT " CENTO ALLIES HAVE AT LAST AWAKENED TO THE TRUTH OF OUR ASSERTION THAT INDIA IS TO US A MORE IMMINENT AND TANGIBLE THREAT THAN ANY IMAGINARY COMMUNIST INVASION COULD BE"(QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO AZIZ AHMAD). IN ANY CASE, TAHERI SAYS, AZIZ AHMAD WAS SENT TO TEHRAN TO TELL CENTO THAT PAKISTAN WA PLANNING TO LEAVE CENTO IF IT CONTINUED TO REFUSE IT REAL ASSISTANCE;

F. UP TO NOW THEY USED TO SAY CENTO COULD NOT DO ANYTHING BECAUSE PAKISTAN WAS STAYING AWAY, BUT NOW PAKISTAN IS BACK IN T E FOLD AND IT UP TO CENTO TO PROVE ITSELF AS GOOD AS ITS WORD;

G. IRAN' S AND TURKEY' S HLEP TO PAKISTAN IN 1965 AND 1971 HAD BEEN BECAUSE OF PAKISTAN' S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITS TWO MUSLIM FRIENDS;

#. THERE WAS ONE CENTO EMBER WHO SIDED WITH INDIA AND REFUSED TO CONCEDE THAT PAKISTAN COULD NOT BE A THREAT TO INDIA. PAKISTAN' S EXPERIENCE WITH INDIA AND NEW DELHI WAS NOT REASSURING AND ALTHOUGH THE WAR IS OVER INDIA HAS TWO- THIRDS OF ITS ARMED FORCES SITTING ACROSS PAKISTAN' S BORDER. PAKISTAN IS SEEKING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH INDIA, INSISTS THAT TALKS BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI SHOULD BE REOPENED IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT, AND IS CONCERNED OVER THE FATE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 04211 161234 Z

POLITICAL PRISONERS AND BANGLADESH THREATS TO PUT PAKISTANI CAPTIVES ON TRIAL FOR ALLEGED WAR CRIMES;

I. BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER SIR ALEC DOUGLAS- HOME PROPOSED A MIXED TRIBUNAL OF ONE BANGLADESH JUDGE, ONE PAKISTANI JUDGE, AND A THIRD FROM A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, BUT AZIZ AHMAD REFUSED THIS PROPOSAL " WIH INDIGNATION";

J. BENGALIS HAD PASSED PAKISTANI MILITARY SECRETS TO INDIA DURING THE WAR AND HAD TRIED TO DESTROY PAKISTAN COMPLETELY. LET BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER MJIB AL- RAHMAN DO WHAT HE THREATENS AND " WE SHALL STAGE TRIALS OF OUR OWN. BUT WHAT IS THE GOOD OF CREATING MORE HATRED AND ENMITY WHEN THERE IS TOO MUCH OF BOTH ALREADY";

K. SUBVERSION IS THE WORST KIND OF AGGRESSION. AT LEAST ONE BIG POWER IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FOMENTING AND SUPPORTING SUBVERSION AGAINST PAKISTAN WITH THE AID OF ITS JUNIOR PARTNERS IN THE REGION - BUT " I THINK WE HAVE PASSED OUR WORST DAYS AND OUR UNITY CANNOT BE MADE A PLAYTHING OF RAITORS AND THEIR FOREIGN BACKERS";

L. PAKISTAN' S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ARE EXCELLENT AND PRESIDENT NIXON UNDERSTANDS PAKISTAN VERY WELL;

M. CLAIMS THAT PAKISTAN WAS ASKING IRAN TO HELP PUT UP MILITARY BASES IN PAKISTANI BALUCHISTAN ARE " MISERABLE LIES".

HELMS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEHRAN04211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajdih.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980210
Subject: EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PAKISTANI FOREIGN
TAGS: MARR, IN, IR, PK, CENTO, IFOR
To: ISLAMABAD
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA
LONDON
NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

